

## CLAIMS

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by grace of Patent is:

- 1) Claim, a network system and method of manufacture and assembly of Vertical Portal(s), Horizontal portal(s) and any multi-portal-system participating portal(s) using or assembling from readily available skills/products; a multi-portal system wherein end-users or participants are connected/linked or registered or interfaced at any number of portals and participate within the system as well as outside the system via the system; system of integrated distributed portals with interfaces to the participants; a system of two or more distributed portals; a means for practically distributing/propagating application(s) and practical functions across the network or various portals within or outside the multi-portal system; multi-portal internally inter-linked as well as optionally externally linked/inter-linked systems/portals but not limited to the internet or intranet(s) or extra-net(s); a system for integrating/maintaining various portals to function in concert within or outside the system;
- 2) The system and method of claim 1 further comprising grouping or segmenting or structuring of electronic portals collaborating in the multi-portal system or in a set/system of collaborative portals included in the system of elements/portals/nodes/interfaces/functions connected/linked to the system or the network;

Vertical Portal(s) or Horizontal Portal(s) or any type of portal(s) to be included in a multi-portal or collaborative multi-portal system being created/produced and compiled as set(s) of portals individually or collectively designated by electronic location addresses as applicable within internet/intranet/extranet/other network norms and characterized by or recognizable by any consistently selected pattern of text or numerical or alphanumerical strings or characters designated as or within the electronic address or domain designation of the

portal(s) or as such patterns comprised or recognizable within other addresses or domains participating in a multi-portal or collaborative multi-portal system;

- 3) The system and method of claim 1 further comprising creation and use of common or parts of common portal functions or contents or containers; starting with but not limited to, by prototyping/assembling/designing one or more operating hub/portal with all or a number of requisite programs/program-suites/program-modules/software-engines/functions to create a prototype portal construction or portal engine and then propagating by copying/instantiation/inheritance the construct or engine to select/individual/collective set of portals; further as may be required populating/augmenting/modifying each selected hub or portal with local/global/selective functions/interfaces; utilizing object oriented programming and/or object oriented modeling and/or common container or common content management techniques; optionally using any other programming techniques;

Optionally, propagating portal functions or engines to the portals are carried out after it has been modified/augmented/function-ready for the select/individual/collective set of portals; gateway functions/interfaces/properties/filters/processes/securities/other functions are similarly constructed/managed/provided to network participants/clients/customers/users in this multi-portal system; common OOP and OO Modeling methods utilized and augmented into the system are part of the efficiencies provided to and by the multi-portal system apparatus; this is characteristically applied to the general multi-portal system or network.

- 4) The system and method of claim 1 further comprising of providing any number of functions and interface(s) within or under the supervisory or controlled environment for interfaces and/or portals and/or other network(s);
- 5) The system of claim 1 further comprising of two or more portals constructed into

an independent electronic network with options to inter-link with other internet based portal(s)/network(s) or extra-net based portal(s)/network(s) or intranet based portal(s)/network(s) or other electronic network(s) or other electronically enabled interfaces;

- 6) The system of claim 1 further comprising of two or more portals constructed into an independent electronic network as private or virtual private networks within the system or hybrid set of portals within the system as well as from outside the system with options to inter-link with other portals within as well as externally to other but not limited to internet based portal(s)/network(s) or extra-net based portal(s)/network(s) or intranet based portal(s)/network(s) or other electronic network(s) or other electronically enabled interfaces;
- 7) The practical application, of claim 1 further comprising providing a distribution apparatus for carrying out systemized, distributed functions or activities within/across/externally to the system or network such as but not limited to business functions and/or business processes and/or business activities and/or data exchange and/or data/information handling and/or function distribution and/or function handling and/or commercial exchange;
- 8) The system of claim 1 further comprising providing means for distributing functions and/or activities and/or traffic loads within the system or network; providing real time as well as other functionality(ies) within and across to and from other external systems;
- 9) CLAIM, functions provided in the multi-portal system include interfacing or utility(ies) provided to end-users in the multi-portal or network system by producing or using or assembling from readily available skills/products interactive client or end-user(s) with means to configure and manufacture products such as but not limited to portal-interfaces, customer to customer end-user interfaces, catalogues, reverse-catalogues, and hybrid-catalogues of customers/suppliers/products/client-needs/component-configuration-builders interfaces, commercial process interface(s), and other interfaces;

system with selective or general automation of functions and/or processes made available to the multi-portal portals and end-users internally or externally; system and means for practically allowing providers and end-users to be linked together via a network of portals maintained in a captive or controlled or managed or a community environment (collectively or singularly hereon described as "environment") as practically provided by any system and method of this invention; means for utilizing reverse-catalogues whereby user needs/requirements/utilization/products-of-preference are recorded and as required or facilitated are electronically configured and interfaced within or outside the environment for matching and ready reference and/or ready utilization among the environment or community or outside the environment for any utility provided or selected for/or by the user; means for providing hybrid catalogues/Recats to interface within or outside the environment with but not limited to providers of manufacture/supplies/services/functions in order to be able to build comprehensive catalogues/Recats providing any combination of any number of requirements and matches or other compilations from such as but not limited to suppliers fulfilling the requirements or providing information for catalogues/Recats

10 CLAIM, a system integrating customer/client/end-user portals with other portals providing means and functions for inter-linking with generally other customers/end-users and portals but specifically any of selected number of portals in the environment ; means and functions for use of or for providing match between user requirements and/or needs and provider/supplier criteria via such as but not limited to an electronic interface which may be manually utilized or automated to provide such as but not limited to matching items/services for such as but not limited to maintenance/spares/purchase/comparison/services from various providers/suppliers or partners or preferred providers.

0955330-091801

- 11) Claim 10 further comprising providing means for further active catalogue creations a system for providing various manufactures/processes/activities/functions/collaborations for use of users/persons/entities/systems/networks both within and outside the environment including but not limited to use of various levels and/or combination of possible automated functions or bots or processes within/outside the environment for such as but not limited to any or all of practical business activities/interfaces/processes/exchanges/facilities/depositories/repositories/transactions/information-handling such as but not limited to products/negotiations/purchase/order/marketing/supply-chain-management processes/client-relations-management processes/transaction-processes/other processes;